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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE JUN 10 1951

1. SUMMARIZE MAY 1 GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS.
2. WHAT IS THE INDICATED PEACH PRODUCTION FOR 1951?
3. DISCUSS 1950 PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF PRINCIPAL N. C. CROPS.
4. WHAT WAS THE VALUE OF THE 1950 COTTON CROP IN NORTH CAROLINA?
5. COMPARE 1951 WHEAT PROSPECTS WITH LAST YEAR'S PRODUCTION.
6. GIVE THE TOTAL VALUE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S 1950 TOBACCO CROP.
7. HOW MANY EGGS WERE PRODUCED IN N. C. DURING APRIL?
8. WHAT IS THE PROSPECTIVE PRODUCTION OF COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES?
9. HOW DOES APRIL MILK PRODUCTION COMPARE WITH APRIL OF LAST YEAR?

No. 85

RALEIGH, N. C.

MAY 15, 1951

MAY 1, 1951 GENERAL FARM REPORT

FARM OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

Weather conditions during the month of April were generally favorable to agriculture throughout the State. At the end of the month soil moisture supplies were generally adequate although soils were still dry in some of the east-central counties. Temperatures were on the cool side the early part of the month, but turned quite warm the latter part and have continued favorable since. The cool temperatures during early April retarded seed germination for some spring seeded crops but caused no serious damages. Farmers in general are well advanced with their spring work. Most of the land has been prepared in good fashion and planting of spring crops is well under way.

Small grain crops made considerable improvement during the month, and at the present time are in fairly good condition. The seeding of corn is from 80 to 100 percent complete in Coastal areas, from 50 to 80 percent in Piedmont counties, but less than 50 percent planted in mountain sections.

(Continued on Page 2)

PROSPECTIVE PEACH CROP LARGEST SINCE 1947

Based upon May 1 reports from producers, North Carolina's peach crop, including both commercial and farm orchards, is currently forecast at 2,772,000 bushels. Should this estimate materialize, it would compare with a production of only 548,000 bushels last year and would be the largest crop since 1947.

Conditions in the State have been generally favorable for the crop thus far. Unlike the past two seasons the crop this season escaped without serious injury from late freezes. The incident of the curculio bug in commercial areas has been relatively small. Even so, growers are being watchful and alert and are following the usual practices to control insects and diseases. A considerable number of farm orchards and a few commercial orchards in Piedmont areas are infected with "leaf curl".

Large crops are expected in South

(Continued on Page 3)

RECORD APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Production of milk in North Carolina during the past month totaled 148,000,000 pounds. This is a new record high for April and compares with 143,000,000 pounds produced during April of 1950 which set a new record at that time. Production during the past month compares with 132,000,000 pounds in April of 1948.

Production of milk per cow also set a new record high for April. Milk production per cow in herds averaged 388 pounds during April compared with 385 pounds during April of 1950.

The average number of milk cows on farms in North Carolina during April totaled 382,000. This number compares with 381,000 in March and 371,000 during April of last year.

Pastures made excellent growth during April and the reported condition on May 1 was 87 percent. Reported condition of pastures on May 1 last year was 78 percent and the 10-year average May 1 condition is 82 percent.

APRIL BROILER OUTPUT HIGHEST OF RECORD

Operations in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial Broiler Areas continued on a high level during April. An estimated 2,295,000 chicks were placed with broiler producers in the two areas during the month. This was 2 percent less than the 2,342,000 chicks placed during March but exceeded April placements of last year by 26 percent.

Hatcherymen serving the two areas report they placed 3,010,000 eggs in incubators in April of this year -- 6 percent under March settings of 3,209,000 eggs but 31 percent greater than the 2,305,000 eggs set during April 1950.

Chicks hatched at 2,411,000 was slightly under the March hatch of 2,428,000, but was 19 percent above the April hatch a year ago.

TOBACCO PLANTS ARE PLENTIFUL IN NORTH CAROLINA THIS YEAR



PRODUCTION OF ALL FLUE-CURED TOBACCO BY TYPE AND NORTH CAROLINA BURLEY PRODUCTION, 1949 AND 1950 (REVISED)

PRODUCING STATE	TYPE NO.	ACREAGE HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		AV. PRICE PER LB. REC'D BY FARMERS		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
		1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
		ACRES		POUNDS		THOUSAND POUNDS		CENTS		THOUSAND DOLLARS	
FLUE-CURED:											
VIRGINIA.....	11	92,000	94,000	1,095	1,375	100,740	129,250	45.9	55.2	46,240	71,346
NORTH CAROLINA.....	11	240,000	254,000	1,070	1,300	256,800	330,200	46.9	54.5	120,439	179,959
TOTAL OLD BELT.....	11	332,000	348,000	1,077	1,320	357,540	459,450	46.6	54.7	166,679	251,305
TOTAL EASTERN N.C. BELT.	12	304,000	307,000	1,245	1,380	378,480	423,660	48.8	56.4	184,698	238,944
NORTH CAROLINA.....	13	77,000	79,000	1,250	1,320	96,250	104,280	49.4	56.2	47,548	58,605
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	13	111,000	114,000	1,325	1,320	147,075	150,480	49.0	54.3	72,067	81,711
TOTAL S. C. BELT.....	13	188,000	193,000	1,294	1,320	243,325	254,760	49.2	55.1	119,615	140,316
TOTAL GA.-FLA. BELT....	14	111,400	110,400	1,213	1,082	135,163	119,410	40.3	48.3	54,519	57,733
TOTAL ALL FLUE-CURED....	11-14	935,400	958,400	1,191	1,312	1,114,508	1,257,280	47.2	54.7	525,511	688,298
TOTAL N. C. FLUE-CURED.	11-13	621,000	640,000	1,178	1,341	731,530	858,140	48.2	55.8	352,685	477,508
TOTAL N. C. BURLEY.....	31	10,800	10,500	1,440	1,700	15,552	17,850	43.4	51.4	6,750	9,175

FARM OUTLOOK (Continued)

In eastern areas most of the corn acreage is up to good stands. The transplanting of tobacco to fields is nearing completion in southeastern counties and making good headway in other areas. Plant supplies in all areas are considered to be adequate. Cotton producers in eastern counties have about completed planting operations. Planting in the Piedmont area is well over three-fourths completed. Where cotton has already emerged, good stands are in evidence. The planting of peanuts in the heavy producing northeastern counties is well under way, although the bulk of the acreage is still to be seeded. Pastures made considerable improvement during April after being held back by low temperatures during the late winter and early spring months. Some first cuttings of alfalfa have been completed, although losses to rains were rather heavy in some sections. Other hay crops have responded well to recent rains and warm temperatures and are making very rapid growth. Farm labor is reported as becoming quite scarce in many areas, due to the draft and the migration of farm workers to industrial plants.

POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

Production of commercial early Irish Potatoes in North Carolina is estimated at 3,645,000 bushels -- 43 percent less than the 6,425,000 bushels produced last year and 30 percent under the 1940-49 average production of 5,211,000 bushels.

Current prospects point to an average yield of 225 bushels per acre, which is 25 bushels less than the harvested yield last year but 63 bushels above the 10-year average yield of 162 bushels per acre.

The acreage for harvest this year is currently estimated at 16,200 acres -- 37 percent less than the 25,700 acres harvested last year and less than half the 10-year average of 32,550 acres.

YIELD, PRICE AND VALUE OF 1950 TOBACCO CROP

Production of flue-cured and burley tobacco in North Carolina during 1950 totaled 875,990,000 pounds. The crop averaged 55.6 cents per pound with a total value of \$486,683,000. This is the highest average price ever received by growers of flue-cured and burley tobacco. The value of the 1950 crop also sets a new high record. Higher prices combined with record yields are responsible for the new record high value. Production of tobacco in 1946 and 1947 exceeded production in 1950, however, average yields during these years

were about 200 pounds less than 1950 and the price per pound was 42.0 cents in 1947 and 49.3 cents in 1946.

The total 1950 flue-cured harvested acreage is estimated at 640,000 acres compared with 621,000 acres in 1949. The yield per acre of flue-cured tobacco averaged 1,178 pounds in 1949 and 1,341 pounds in 1950 (See table above).

The value of the 1950 burley crop was also the highest of record. The average price of 51.4 cents per pound and the average burley yield of 1,700 pounds per acre were the highest of record.

RYE PRODUCTION UP

The first estimate of the season places rye production in North Carolina at 208,000 bushels. This production is to be harvested from 16,000 acres, meaning an average yield of 13.0 bushels per acre. In comparison, production in 1950 totaled 207,000 bushels -- an average yield of 11.5 bushels from 18,000 acres.

The production forecast for the Nation at 23.3 million bushels compares with 23.0 million bushels produced in 1950.

CONDITION OF OATS AVERAGE

North Carolina's oats crop condition was only fair as of May 1. Farmers reporting at that time indicated the crop to be about 82 percent normal.

The May 1 condition was 4 points above that for the same date a year ago and equals the 1940-49 ten-year average.

Fall sown oats in all sections except in south and southeast counties suffered some damage from winter-kill. Stands in these instances are quite irregular. Prospects, however, continue favorable since spring weather has aided crop development considerably.

HAY STOCKS LOWEST SINCE 1942

Stocks of hays on North Carolina farms totaled 237,000 tons as of May 1. Stocks for this date were the lowest since 1942. Current stocks are 137,000 tons or 37 percent lower than stocks on hand a year ago and 14 percent less than the ten-year average.

RECORD WHEAT YIELD INDICATED

Wheat prospects as of May 1 in the State were slightly better than those of a month earlier, and production is now expected to reach 6,834,000 bushels. This means a crop about one-fourth larger than production in 1950.

A record average yield of 17.0 bushels per acre is estimated for the current crop, being equaled only in 1946 and 1947. Favorable seasons, minimum damage from insects and diseases, and the influence of better-yielding Atlas varieties account largely for prospective high yields.

Growers have indicated that they will harvest about 402,000 acres this year, comparing with 375,000 acres harvested last year.

Production of winter wheat in the Nation is now estimated at 682.2 million bushels. Last year 750.7 million bushels were harvested.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1950 PRELIMINARY

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1950 PRELIMINARY											
CROPS	UNIT	PRODUC- TION	USED FOR SEED		FED TO LIVE- STOCK	FOR USE IN FARM HOUSE- HOLD	SOLD	SEASON'S AV. PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS	VALUE OF PRODUC- TION	VALUE OF PRODUCTS USED IN HOUSE HOLD	VALUE OF SALES
			TOTAL	ON FARM WHERE GROWN							
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	DOLLARS	THOUSAND DOLLARS		
WHEAT.....	BU.	5,438	654	425	1,142	656	3,215	2/ 2.18	11,855	1,430	7,009
CORN.....	BU.	81,955	1/	1/	464,116	1,936	15,903	2/ 1.60	131,128	3,099	25,445
OATS.....	BU.	11,859	1/	1/	9,250	-	2,609	2/ .92	10,910	-	2,400
BARLEY.....	BU.	888	1/	1/	702	-	186	2/ 1.33	1,181	-	247
RYE.....	BU.	207	127	32	68	4	103	2/ 2.20	455	9	227
SORGHUM, GRAIN.....	BU.	870	1/	1/	696	-	174	1.40	1,218	-	244
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS	BU.	5,117	705	395	154	-	4,568	2/ 2.50	12,792	-	11,420
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS..	BU.	114	62	40	8	10	56	4.50	513	45	252
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED..	LBS.	248,040	3/19,975	13,983	744	2,520	230,793	.126	31,253	318	29,080
HAY, ALL.....	TONS	1,246	-	-	1,153	-	93	28.80	35,885	-	2,678
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	LBS.	26,400	-	11,900	-	-	14,500	9.60	2,534	-	1,392
IRISH POTATOES.....	BU.	10,368	648	97	570	2,600	4/7,101	.79	8,191	2,054	5,610
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	6,785	325	244	1,730	2,106	2,705	1.97	13,366	4,149	5,329
SORGHUM, SIRUP.....	GALS.	720	-	-	-	405	315	2.05	1,476	-	646

1/ Seed not shown separately, combined with "Fed to Livestock"

2/ Includes an allowance for quantities of unredeemed loans and purchase agreement deliveries valued at the average loan rate per bushel by states.

3/ The difference between total seed and seed used on farms where grown represents peanuts purchased for seed and duplicated under "Sold".

4/ Consists of potatoes sold or to be sold for food, seed, feed, processing and all purchases by the Government under price support program.

N. C. CROPS IN 1950

1950 COTTON CROP SMALLEST SINCE 1872

The above table shows production and general disposition break-down of principal crops grown in North Carolina in 1950. In addition, average prices received and values are shown. Similar information is shown for tobacco and cotton in this issue.

APRIL EGG OUTPUT DOWN

North Carolina farm flocks produced 117 million eggs in April -- 7.2 percent less than production during April, 1950. The decreased egg output was due principally to a decline in the number of layers on farms.

PEACH CROP (Continued)

Carolina and Georgia, also, this season, whereas, prospects are for light crops in Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. This year's expected production compared with last year's production for southern states is as follows:

MAY 1 PEACH CROP CONDITION

STATE	1951 (BU.)	1950 (BU.)
N. C.....	2,772,000	548,000
S. C.....	6,708,000	468,000
GA.....	4,410,000	975,000
FLA.....	97,000	56,000
ALA.....	460,000	440,000
MISS.....	260,000	286,000
ARK.....	900,000	1,980,000
LA.....	178,000	189,000
OKLA.....	464,000	378,000
TEX.....	1,450,000	783,000
10 STATES	17,699,000	6,103,000

The 10-year average production (1940-49) for the above ten states is 17,712,000 bushels.

North Carolina's 1950 cotton crop totalled 181,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. This is the smallest crop since 1872, and compares with the 1949 production of 466,000 bales. Production is based on the Bureau of the Census final ginnings with allowances made for cross-state movement of seed cotton.

The 596,000 acres in cultivation on July 1 was 273,000 acres or 31 percent less than the 1949 acreage. This sharp reduction in acreage from a year ago was due primarily to the reinstatement of cotton acreage allotments and the failure of some farmers to plant their full allotted acreage.

Abandonment after July 1, 1950, including the acreage removed from cultivation to comply with allotments, is estimated at 3.5 percent leaving 575,000 acres harvested. This is the same as the 1945 harvested acreage and the smallest cotton crop harvested since 1872. The small acreage harvested in 1950 was chiefly due to the unusually heavy boll weevil damage and unfavorable weather during the growing season.

Lint yield per acre during 1950 averaged 151 pounds compared with 259 pounds in 1949. This is the

lowest yield per acre since 1889.

According to reports from crop correspondents, the reduction from a full yield from all causes in North Carolina was 69 percent. Reduction caused by weevil alone was reported at 54 percent. This was the worst weevil damage on record and compares with a loss of 27 percent attributed to weevils in 1949. Excessive moisture caused an 8 percent reduction in full yield in 1950, compared with 10 percent in 1949. The remaining loss in yield from the 1950 crop was attributed to deficient moisture, other climatic conditions, plant diseases and other insects.

Calculated at the season's average price to May 1 of 41 cents per pound, the value of the 1950 crop of cotton lint in North Carolina is indicated at \$37,122,000.00. This compares with an average price of 29.16 cents per pound and a total value of \$67,980,000.00 for the 1949 crop. The season's average price of cottonseed is indicated at \$82.90 per ton, with cottonseed production valued at \$6,218,000.00 compared with \$8,313,000.00 in 1949. The average price received for cottonseed during the 1949 season was \$42.20 per ton.

NORTH CAROLINA FINAL COTTON SUMMARY

ITEMS	UNIT	1949 1/	1950
ACRES HARVESTED	ACRES	860,000	575,000
YIELD PER ACRE (LINT).....	LBS.	259	151
PRODUCTION (LINT).....	BALES 2/	466,000	181,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (LB.).....	CENTS	29.16	41.00
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT).....	DOLS.	67,980,000	37,122,000
PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED).....	THOUS.	197,000	75,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (TON).....	DOLS.	42.20	82.90
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED)...	DOLS.	8,313,000	6,218,000
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT & SEED)...	DOLS.	76,293,000	43,340,000

1/ Revised

2/ 500 pounds gross weight bales

FARM REPORT

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MAY 15, 1951

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

APRIL WEATHER SUMMARY

April in North Carolina was a month of abundant sunshine, with adequate rain in most localities. There were no extended periods of similar weather; in most places the longest period without rain was three days, while the greatest number of consecutive days with rain was four. Sunshine was most plentiful at the beginning and near the end of the month, and at approximately weekly intervals between. Weak storm centers moved across the State on the 3rd and on the 8th, accounting for much of the total rainfall. Hail or high winds or both occurred at several localities with the storm of the 3rd. Another storm center formed off the coast on the 19th, bringing cloudy, rainy weather to the eastern part of the State.

It was rather warm at the beginning of April, and again during the last week, but moderately low temperatures during the middle of the month brought the monthly averages very close to normal throughout the State. Temperatures remained above freezing at all times in the eastern half of the State, but frosts and light freezes occurred frequently in the west. The only extreme temperatures occurred on the last day of the month, when 90 degrees or higher was reached at several places.

Rainfall ranged from near normal to more than three inches above normal. Most sections received an inch or more with the storm passage on the 3rd, and about another inch on the 8th. Along the coast the heaviest amounts fell with the off-shore storm on the 19th -- Wilmington had over three inches on that date. In addition, frequent local showers occurred. A little snow fell in parts of the west on the 3rd.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER MARCH 1950-51*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
	Thous. Head	Thous. Head	Thous. Lbs.	Thous. Lbs.	Thous. Head	Thous. Head	Thous. Lbs.	Thous. Lbs.
Cattle ..	6.9	6.5	5,778	5,522	1,479.3	1,301.0	1,421,531	1,271,550
Calves...	5.8	3.6	902	671	989.3	760.7	171,583	127,446
Sheep & Lambs...	.1	-	9	-	1,019.6	798.5	104,371	83,167
Hogs.....	31.0	37.0	7,739	8,657	6,059.5	6,168.0	1,397,831	1,455,294

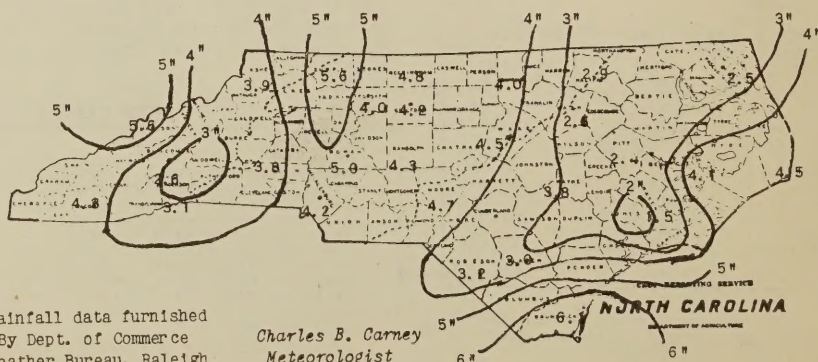
* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter

MEAT PRODUCTION UP 3%

Production of meat in commercial plants in North Carolina during March 1951 totalled 14,850,000 pounds -- an increase of 3 percent over the 14,428,000 pounds produced in March last year.

Beef and veal production were down 4 and 26 percent respectively while pork production showed an increase of 12 percent over March a year ago. No data is available for slaughter of sheep and lambs.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING APRIL, 1951



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist